

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OAS, PINT, DR
SUBJECT: PRD APPEALS JCE DECISION TO OAS

1. AFTERNOON PRESS TODAY (AUGUST 1) REPORTS PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO DOMINICANO'S (PRD) DECISION TO MAKE "SUPREME AND FINAL" LEGAL EFFORT TO OVERTURN CENTRAL ELECTORAL BOARD'S (JCE) JULY 7 RULING BY APPEALING TO THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHT COMMISSION (IAHRC) OF THE OAS.

2. IN MID-DAY PRESS CONFERENCE, PRD PRESIDENT JORGE BLANCO ANNOUNCED HE WILL LEAD A DELEGATION OF PARTY LEADERS TO WASHINGTON IN NEXT FEW DAYS TO LAY PRD'S CASE AGAINST JCE BEFORE THE IAHRC. HE INDICATED THIS IS LAST DITCH EFFORT TO BLOCK JCE'S DECISION THAT ARBITRARILY GAVE FOUR SENATE SEATS, AND A MAJORITY IN THAT BODY, AND ONE DEPUTY SEAT TO THE GOVERNING PR. THE SUPREME COURT ON JULY 20 REFUSED THE PRD'S APPEAL TO HEAR THE CASE.

3. JORGE IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE PARTY HAS DECIDED TO MOVE NOW SO THAT THE IAHRC CAN DECIDE THE PARTY'S ULTIMATE RECOURSE BEFORE PRESIDENT BALAGUER LEAVES OFFICE AUGUST 16. BECAUSE THE ELECTORAL BOARDS AND THE SUPREME COURT WERE REMISS AND ARBITRARY IN ESTABLISHING RESPECT FOR THE
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CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC, THE PRD, SAID JORGE, IS GOING TO THE OAS' HUMAN RIGHTS BODY FOR RELIEF, CITING ARTICLE 44 OF THE 1969 SAN JOSE INTERAMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

4. THAT PROVISION OF THE CONVENTION, HE SAID, GIVES LEGALLY RECOGNIZED POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS IN SIGNATORY

COUNTRIES (THE GODR APPROVED THE CONVENTION LAST YEAR)
THE RIGHT TO PRESENT "DENUNCIATIONS AND COMPLAINTS" ABOUT
RIGHTS VIOLATIONS TO THE COMMISSION. AMONG SUCH RIGHTS,
HE SAID, IS POLITICAL RIGHT TO UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE "BY
SECRET VOTE THAT GUARANTEES THE FREE EXPRESSION OF THE
ELECTORATE..." HE ALSO CITED IN THIS CONNECTION ART. 25
OF THE CONVENTION, WHICH HE SAID GUARANTEES SIMPLE AND
RAPID RECOURSE TO JUDGES OR COMPETENT TRIBUNALS WHOSE DUTY
IT IS TO PROTECT INDIVIDUALS AGAINST ACTS THAT VIOLATE
FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS RECOGNIZED BY THE CONSTITUTION, THE LAW,
OR THE 1969 CONVENTION, EVEN THOUGH SUCH VIOLATION IS
COMMITTED BY PERSONS ACTING IN THEIR OFFICIAL CAPACITIES.
YOST

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